9: Cardim--449
116, 132

(1583-1601) 1906

Tupinamba

"The Climate of Brasill generally is temperate, of good, delicate, and healthfull aire, where the men live on even to 90. 100. and more yeeres, and the Countrie is full of old men. Generally it is neither cold nor hot, though from the River of Januarie, unto Saint Vincent, there be colds and heates, but not very great. The Heavens are very pure and cleere, especially by night; the Moone is very prejudiciall unto health, and corrupteth the things very much. The mornings are verie healthfull: it hath verie little twilights, as well in the morning as in the evenings, for as soone as it is day presently the Sun riseth, and as soone as it is set, it is night. Their Winter beginneth in March, and endeth in August, the Summer beginneth in September, and endeth in Februarie, the nights and daies are all the yeere almost equall."

12: Magalhães de Gandavo--26-27 (1576) 1922 Tupinamba 1-4
116, 132

"...the Province, [AW: the Province of Brazil] without contradiction, is the most suitable of all the provinces of America for mankind, because usually the air is good and the soil most fertile, and [the land is] of the most delightful and pleasing appearance to human sight. The fact it is so healthful and free from sickness is because of the winds that generally blow over it, from the northeast or south and sometimes from the east or east-southeast. As all these come from off the sea, the air is so pure and well tempered that not only does it do no harm, but on the contrary restores and prolongs human life. (17) The viração (18) begins about noon and lasts till daylight; then it stops because of the moisture from the earth which checks it. When day breaks the sky is usually covered with mist, for the many thickets attract all this moisture. And during this period a gentle wind blows from off the land until the sun calms it with its rays [27] and the accustomed sea breeze starts, the day becomes clear and mild, and the ground remains clean and free from all exhalations.

"17. [for footnote 17 see succeeding sheet]

18. Viração is a word derived from the verb virar, to turn, as does a weather vane, and is applied to the daily winds which in Brazil blow from sea to land in daytime, and in the opposite direction at night and in the early morning."

12: Magalhães de Gandavo--26-27 (1576) 1922 Tupinamba-2
116, 132

"17. [footnote 17, page 26] The early accounts of travellers in Brazil abound in references to the healthfulness of the Brazilian climate, but this seems to be mere propaganda. As a matter of fact, the letters of the Jesuit Fathers indicate that they suffered a great many hardships due to illness. One must bear in mind that the tenor of the first accounts was to inspire people to seek Brazil. Cardim (Narrativo Espistolar), however, as late as 1590, relates that in São Paulo he saw four men whose combined ages totaled 500 years. This would accord with the statement that Pigafetta makes but which he gives at second hand; namely, that there [205] are many who are 125 years old, and some who reach the age of 140 years. The Neue Zeitung also states that many of the inhabitants of Brazil attained the age of 140 years. The probabiltiy is that the older Indians from whom they had information regarding their age figured by generations rather than by actual years, and the Spaniards in calculating did not consider the earlier maturity of the Indians. We also have statements from the earlier travellers that the Brazilians could not count above ten. Moreover, aborigines of all countries have the appearance of great age by the time they have reached seventy. These facts, no doubt, account for the exaggerated statements made by some observers.

Not every one of the travellers to Brazil was so pleased with the climate. Luis Ramires (Letter of Luis Ramires. Instituto Brazileiro. Vol. XV, p. 14), speaking of a point on the coast near São Vicente where he and his men had remained thirteen months and a

half to build a ship, relates that nearly all his people fell ill before the ship was completed, and the illness was so sudden that many fell on the spot, a few of his men died, and nearly all were sick, either while in port or after they had left."

12: Magalhães de Gandavo--26-27 (1576) 1922 Tupinamba-4
116, 132

The aspect of the Province is very delectable and refreshing to a great degree: the whole of it is covered with lofty thick woods, and is watered with many delightful streams, with which all the land is abundantly supplied; it is always green with the same temperature of spring that April and May offer us here [in Portugal]. For this reason they do not have the colds or frosts of winter to injure the plants as they injure our plants. In a word, Nature has so acted in respect to all things in the Province, and has so moderated the air, that one is never aware of excessive cold or heat."

17: Nobrega--91 (1550) 1844 Tupinamba
116, 132

Information on the Lands of Brasil, Sent Through Father Nobrega*

The information on these parts of Brasil which I am able to give you, dear fathers and brothers, is that this land has more than a thousand miles of coastline, the whole of which is inhabited by people who, women as well as men, go about naked, excepting in some very distant regions wherein the women dress in the manner of gypsies, in cotton dresses; that land must be colder than (the one which I describe), for this is very temperate, in such a way that the winter is neither cold nor hot, and the summer, even though it may be warmer, causes no one to suffer; it is, however, a very humid land, on account of the many moderate showers that continually fall, and which serve to keep the trees and shrubs constantly green. And for this reason the land is very fresh. In parts it is very rough, on account of mountains and forests, the latter always green.

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* Parentheses -()- are used in this translation in place of brackets -[]-.